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A Report on Col. Alfons Rebane

Residence: 89 Augsburg - Kriegshaber, Schmutter Str. 20/I
Germany

Source: An article by E. Vallaste in "Vaba Eesti Sona" 24 Sep 1964

Born 1908 in the city of Valga. Graduated from Narva Real-Gymnasium 1926. Entered Military Academy. Graduated three years later in the first group of the class. Assigned as 2nd Lt. to the Armored Train Regt. in Tapa. In 1935 transferred to Viljandi region (Sakalamaa) National Guard as advisor and instructor in marksmanship.

After the establishment of Soviet Bases in Estonia in 1939 was Military Comandant of Lihula. Transferred to Ministry of Defense in 1940. Following Soviet take-over was discharged from service in October 1940 as undesirable. Worked as construction worker in Tallinn, then fled to woods in Virumaa where he became leader of a partisans in Aaspere-Viitna-Valgejoe area.

Following German entry, volunteered as CO 15th Co. to 184 Estn. Sichereits Abteilung (Battalion strength unit).

Promoted to Captain 1 Jan 1942, to Major June 1943, to Lt. Col. November 1944 and to Col. April 1945.

Source: "Eesti Riik ja Rahvas Teises Maailmasojas" (Estonian Nation and People in the Second World War), Volume VII, EMP Stockholm 1959
"Kui Voideldi Kodupaana Eest" (Fighting for the Native Soil) Harald Riipalu. (Comment: Col. Riipalu CO 45th Regt. 20 SS Div. was in Denmark When the War ended, went to England in 1948 where he died in April 1961 of heart attack.)

"Kahe Rinde Vahel" (Between Two Fronts) A. Jurissaar. (Comment: Jurissaar a war time companion and later Adjutant to Col. Rebane also went to England after the war, where he died about 1953.)

The 184th Abteilung was assigned security and anti-partisan duties after arrival in Russia September 1941 in Novgorod, Volhov, Gatsina area. Following Gen. Vlassov's breakthrough the Battalion assigned to front early 1942. Participated in the liquidation of Vlassov "pocket". In August 1942 the remnants of "Sichereits Abteilungen" were consolidated into three "Ost Batalions" and renamed. Rebane became the CO of 658 Ost Bn. formerly 181 Abteilung. (Comment: the first CO of 181st Maj. Vask died in England in 1958).

The 658 Bn. was assigned front line duties in Leningrad, Kolpino, Gatsina Laadoga, Ilmen, Novgorod areas until early 1944. Rebane was awarded the "Knights Cross" for the battle of Vashkovo (Jan 1944).

In February the remnants of three "Ost Battalion" arrived in Estonia at Toila near Jarve. Rebane came out with about 100 men. A struggle developed between Wehrmacht and SS about assignment of these units. SS wanted them to augment the 20th Div. Rebane was against this. SS won on this issue and the personnel were spread out between various units in the 20th Div. On 19 March 44 Rebane was transferred to the staff of XXVI Corps (Gen. Grasser). In April 44 Rebane reassigned as CO 2nd Bn. 47th Regt. 20th SS Div. on Narva front. After Soviet breakthrough, the battle of Sinimaed (Blue Mountains) and the consolidation of the front there, "Kampfgruppe Rebane" formed and sent to Tartu front on 16 Aug 44. This unit had the 2nd Bn. 47th Regt. one German Bn. and two batteries. Rebane stayed on Tartu front until 17 Sep 44. Following Soviet breakthrough retreated through Latvia. About 25 Sep 44 the remnants of the Division arrived in Riga and were transported by sea to Danzig or Gotenhafen (Gdynia) with destination Neuhammer, Germany where the Division was reformed with the strength of about 8000 men.